

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-4 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~1~~24 wherein the method comprises a heat-treatment step for preparation or preservation of the food product.

6. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~1~~24 wherein the food product is selected from the group consisting of soups, noodles, sauces, dressing, spreads, cereals, beverages, bread, biscuits, sweets, dairy products, and dietetic products.

7-11 (Cancelled)

12. (previously presented) Method according to claim 8, wherein the ratio of non-viable to viable bacteria is more than 5:1.

13. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein the ratio of non-viable to viable bacteria is more than 10:1.

14. (currently amended) A method to produce a food product comprising probiotic Lactobacillus bacteria which have been rendered non-viable, wherein the method comprises the step of adding a mixture of viable and non-viable Lactobacillus into the

food product followed by inactivation of the viable probiotic Lactobacillus before substantial fermentation of the food product can take place, and wherein no substantial fermentation of the food product by said Lactobacillus bacteria will take place, the method including a ~~heat treatment~~pasteurization step for preparation or preservative of the food product.

15-18 (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) Method according to claim 14 wherein the food product is selected from the group consisting soups, noodles, sauces, dressing, spreads, cereals, beverages, bread, biscuits, sweets, dairy products, and dietetic products.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the food product is selected from the group consisting of ice cream, snacks, bars, chocolate and chewing gum.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein the food product is selected from the group consisting of ice cream, snacks, bars, chocolate and chewing gum.

23. (previously presented) Method according to claim 6, wherein the food product is a cereal food product which is a bar.

24. (new) A method to produce a food product comprising probiotic Lactobacillus bacteria which have been rendered non-viable, wherein the method comprises adding probiotic Lactobacillus bacteria into the food product, said bacteria being rendered non-

viable before or after addition to the food product, and wherein no substantial fermentation of the food product by said Lactobacillus bacteria will take place by said non-viable bacteria, said non-viable bacteria being such as would be obtained by pasteurization.

25. (new) The method according to claim 24 wherein the non-viable bacteria are such as would be obtained by pasteurization in line for 30 seconds at 72°C.

26. (new) the method according to claim 24 wherein the non-viable bacteria are obtained by pasteurization.

27. (new) The method according to claim 24 wherein the amount of non-viable bacteria in the food product is from about 10^6 to 10^{11} per 100g of product.